

IV. Remarks.

The Examiner entered the following rejections in the office action.

1. Claims 1, 4-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamada, U.S. 5,326,324.

As to claim 1 and amended claim 7, Hamada teaches a damper mass member 30 and a pair of elastic support members 32, 32, each fixed to opposite ends of damper mass 30, col. 3, lines 51-55. The damper mass is radially displaceable perpendicular to the axis of rotation of a shaft, col. 3, line 67 to col. 4, line 2. In effect, damper mass 30 is suspended between elastic support members 32, 32 while being free to move side-to-side. Therefore, elastic support members 32, 32 are not in compression between an outer member (shaft 12) inner surface and an inertial member (damper mass 30) outer surface as claimed. The metal members 40 suggested by the Examiner are not inertial members for the purpose of damping a shaft vibration, instead, they are simply means to connect the damper 28 to the shaft 12, col. 4, lines 21-26 and col. 7, lines 33-36.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1.

As to claim 5, the radial lip of 40 at 36 does not extend parallel to a shaft centerline as claimed. It appears the circular lip at 40 is disposed in a plane normal to a shaft centerline.

Claim 9 depends from amended claim 7.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada US 5,326,324 in view of Haushalter, U.S. 3,077,090.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1.

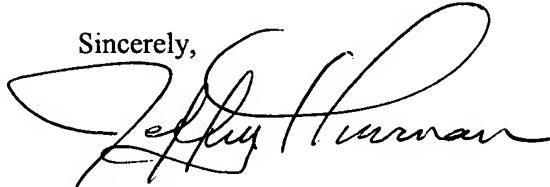
Applicant requests allowance of all pending claims.

V. Fees.

Any fees payable for this RCE and amendment may be deducted from deposit account 07-0475 in the name of The Gates Corporation.

Thank you for your attention to this case. If any questions arise, please call at the number below.

Sincerely,



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Date: Aug. 30, 2004

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